

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1, with the following paragraph:

a1
Now, users of mobile equipment such as wireless phones and palm-sized personal computers also demand, as do users of desktop computers, these same products. However, searching and browsing such information using mobile equipment may not be practical, as such mobile equipment has limited processing capability, memory, and battery power. In addition, such mobile equipment has small displays for viewing and manipulating information.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1, with the following paragraph:

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Routing of data packets between a sender (e.g., the subscription server) and a receiver (e.g., a mobile terminal) is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,233,458, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 2, with the following paragraph:

a3
Fig. 1 illustrates an on-line subscription system 10 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The system 10 includes a mobile or a wireless communication network 12 for communicating with a mobile terminal 14 comprising, for example, a palm-sized personal computer, a Personal Digital Assistant, and a wireless phone. The wireless communication network 12 is connected to a wide area network such as the Internet 16 through an Internet access 18 such as a gateway server. Advantageously, the system 10 includes a subscription server 20, connected directly to an Intranet 22, and indirectly to Internet 16 through an Intranet access 24, for automatically and regularly communicating data to a subscriber, i.e., a user who is registered with the subscription server 20. A user is registered when the user submits to the subscription server 20 the requisite user-specific information, which will be stored in a subscription database accessible by the subscription server 20. The user-specific information includes the capabilities of the user's hardware, the user's financial information, and the user's preferences. Information on the user's hardware capabilities (e.g., user agent, terminal type, network type etc.) enables the server to download data in a format compatible with the mobile terminal's protocol and the user network's protocol. The user's financial information such as, for example, the user's name, address, bank, credit or debit card account and other requisite billing information is included so that fees can be charged against the

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user's account as appropriate. As one example, the user's preferences are included so that the subscription server 20 can automatically seek out and retrieve digitally-formatted products preferred by or otherwise interesting to the user (e.g., works of favorite writers, composers, singers, artists, music bands, orchestras, etc.) locally or from other vendor servers connected to the Internet for transmission to the user's mobile terminal using, for example, a search engine.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 19, with the following paragraph:

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The subscription server 20 may access data or product from a local database or from a vendor server 32 (operated by, for example, a book publisher) connected to the Internet. In the case where direct access to the vendor server 32 is required, the subscription server 20 sends a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) message (a conventional method of locating or retrieving resources from the World Wide Web) addressed to the vendor server 32 and retrieves the desired data from the vendor server 32. Optionally, the subscription server 20 sends a URL message to a "shopping market" 33 Web site which then redirects the subscription server 20 to other vendor Web sites (e.g., various book publisher's servers) to retrieve the product which has been determined to be interesting to the user by using the user's preferences. It is not necessary that user preferences determine when and what information is sent but the book club (or the subscription server 20) itself can decide what and when should be sent depending on the collection of items the book club is interested in. The user preferences may, for example, be a predetermined time period (e.g., once a month) the product is transmitted to the user. For example, for an electronic book club, the text of one or more books is transmitted on the first of each month by the subscription server 20 and downloaded into the mobile terminal 14.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13, with the following paragraph:

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Fig. 3 is a flowchart describing an embodiment of the on-line subscription method of the present invention. Initially, in step 100, the subscription server 20 determines whether user-specific information for a user exists. In step 102, if the user-specific information exists (or if the user is authorized to receive information from the subscription server 20), the subscription server 20 retrieves (locally, or remotely from a vendor server by, for example, sending a URL request) and transmits to the mobile terminal 14 information relating to available products at

each predetermined period of time. The products are selected based on the user's preferences obtained from the previously submitted user-specific information. If user-specific information does not exist for the user (or the user is not authorized to receive information from the subscription server 20), that user must register with the subscription server 20 and supply the requisite information before he can receive product-related information from the subscription server 20, as indicated in step 104. In step 106, the subscription server 20 assesses and sends to the mobile terminal 14 the product-related information. In step 108, the user determines whether to purchase a product (e.g., MP3 (MPEG, layer 3) coded music data and/or JPEG coded image data etc.) based on the product-related information. If not, the user sends a cancellation request from the mobile terminal 14 to the subscription server 20 in step 110. The subscription server 20 then cancels the product in step 112. The cancellation message may be sent to a special address specified in the message sent. When the server 20 receives the message, it will add a cancellation mark to the subscriber information. In step 109, it is determined whether the product is included in the message. If the product is included in the message, the method jumps to step 116. If the product is not included in the message, the subscription server 20 retrieves and transmits (i.e., downloads) the product to the mobile terminal 14 in step 114 based on the network capabilities specified by the user. The mobile terminal 14 then determines whether the mobile terminal 14 is capable of presenting the product based on the user-specific information in step 116. If so, the mobile terminal 14 receives and presents the product by, for example, using an MP3 player to convert the product into sounds which are played on a speaker in step 118. If not, the mobile terminal 14 transfers the product to a Bluetooth-capable player 26 such as, for example, an electronic book, an audio player, and/or a multimedia player etc. in step 120. In the case where text and/or JPEG image data are transferred to the electronic book 26, the user may view one or more pages on the electronic book 26 as the user depresses sequentially a signaling switch thereon to cause transfer of additional data for display thereon. Thereafter, the subscription server 20 charges the user's credit or debit card account the price of the downloaded product.

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Replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 3, with the following paragraph:

In another embodiment, the entire product (e.g., book, music, etc.) is downloaded to customers' mobile terminals, including a special "gateway lock". The customer can, for

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example, read the first page of the downloaded book, or listen to one [-] minute of the downloaded music etc. and after that the "gateway lock" prohibits the use of the product and the user is requested to decide whether to buy the product or not. If the answer is "yes", the "gateway lock" opens (by, for example, a decoding message or instruction from the subscription server 20) and the rest of the downloaded product can then be accessed by the customer and fees are charged according to the terms of an agreement or club rules already agreed to by the customer. This embodiment has the advantage of lower overall costs. It is contemplated that instead of canceling the product, the product may be sent back to the server so that the server knows that the subscription is cancelled. It is also contemplated that instead of sending a decoding message back from the server, the downloaded product includes an access code for unlocking the gateway lock so that the customer can access the entire product.
